

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 137841
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
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DRAFTED BY EA/EP:AHEGBURG:SRP
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H:DKENNEY (SUBS)

-----028158 312138Z /70

O 312118Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 137841

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES RESOLUTION
SEEKING TESTIMONY FROM KIM DONG JO

REF: STATE 131917

1. BY A VOTE OF 321-46 ON MAY 31, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED A SENSE OF THE HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN TESTIMONY FROM FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO. THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION AS PASSED IS CONTAINED IN THE REFTEL. THE WORDING OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED IS UNCHANGED FROM THAT REPORTED BY THE HIRC ON MAY 23.

2. DURING THE FLOOR DEBATE, REPRESENTATIVE FINDLEY

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PAGE 02 STATE 137841

(R-ILL) LEAD THOSE OPPOSED TO THE RESOLUTION. HE WAS SUPPORTED BY REP. GONZALEZ (D-TEXAS), STRATTON (D-NY) AND SISK (D-CALIF), ALL OF WHOM SPOKE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION. ARGUMENTS USED IN OPPOSITION RELATED TO THE IMPACT THE RESOLUTION MIGHT HAVE ON: A) US/KOREA TRADE RELATIONS, SPECIFICALLY TEXTILES AND COMMERCIAL SALES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, SHOULD PL-480 BE CUT OFF;

B) US STRATEGIC INTERESTS SINCE THE CONGRESS WOULD BE
SENDING A NEGATIVE SIGNAL TO KOREA; AND C) THE VIENNA
CONVENTION.

3. SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION WERE
REPRESENTATIVES DERWINSKI (R-ILL), BURKE (R-FLA),
BUCHANAN (R-ALA), CAPUTO (R-NY), GILMAN (R-NY); ERTTEL
(D-PA), MAJORITY LEADER WRIGHT, AND SPEAKER O'NEILL.
IN A STRONG STATEMENT AT THE END OF DEBATE, SPEAKER
O'NEILL URGED THE HOUSE TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION
OVERWHELMINGLY SO AS TO SHOW THE RESOLVE OF THE HOUSE
TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION AND TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE
KOREAN GOVERNMENT OF THE NEED FOR ITS COOPERATION.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: DURING THE DEBATE,
REFERENCES WERE MADE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE HOUSE
CUTTING OF PL-480 FUNDS TO KOREA. HOWEVER, THERE WERE
NO SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO TIMING, WITH SUPPORTERS OF
THE AMENDMENT GENERALLY AVOIDING PARTICULAR REFERENCES
TO UPCOMING LEGISLATION. THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS
THAT THE HOUSE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE PLANS TO CONSIDER
THE AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATION ON JUNE 13. THE PL-480
ACCOUNT IS PART OF THIS APPROPRIATION. A DATE FOR
HOUSE CONSIDERATION HAS YET TO BE SET, ALTHOUGH THE
COMMITTEE STAFF HAS TENTATIVELY SUGGESTED JUNE 20 FOR
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PAGE 03 STATE 137841

FLOOR DEBATE.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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